

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04806 181408Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----028434 190920Z /21

R 181318Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9304  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4806

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR SY  
SUBJ: EMBASSY BEIRUT CONTACT WITH SYRIANS

REF: DAMASCUS 4688

1. WHILE WE HAVE CONTACT WITH A HEALTHY SPREAD OF GOL OFFICIALS, FELLOW DIPLOMATS, MUSLIM LEADERS, AND CHRISTIAN MILITIA WAR LORDS, THERE IS ONE SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT HERE WITH WHOM WE HAVE NO DIRECT CONTACT. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS THE ELEMENT THAT IS STILL CALLING THE SHOTS HERE, NAMELY, THE SYRIANS. THE ANOMALY IS CAUSED BY THE FACT THAT FOR GEOGRAPHICALLY IDEOLOGICAL REASONS THE SYRIANS HAVE NO DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN BEIRUT. THE RESULT IS THAT THERE IS NO SENIOR SYRIAN OFFICIAL IN LEBANON WITH WHOM WE ARE IN CONTACT AND WHOM THE AMBASSADOR CAN TAKE ASIDE AND EXPLAIN U.S. VIEWS TO.

2. ASSUMING THAT THE SYRIANS WANT, AS THEY TELL US, TO MAINTAIN A DIALOGUE WITH US, IT OCCURS TO ME THAT AMBASSADOR SEELYE MIGHT BE ABLE TO POINT OUT TO THE SYRIANS THE EFFECT OF THIS ANOMALY AND CONVEY  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 04806 181408Z

A REQUEST TO THE GOS THAT IT DESIGNATE ONE OF THE SENIOR SYRIAN OFFICERS IN THE BEIRUT AREA TO ACCEPT DIRECT CONTACT WITH AMBASSADOR PARKER AND HIS EMBASSY AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CONTACT WE WOULD HAVE WITH SYRIAN AMBASSADORS IN OTHER POSTS. THIS WOULD ENABLE US TO DISCUSS WITH RESPONSIBLE SYRIANS ON THE SCENE OUR OWN

PERSPECTIVE ON THE SYRIAN POSTURE IN BEIRUT AND  
OUR ON-THE-SCENE ASSESSMENT OF THE POLITICAL  
EFFECTS OF SYRIAN ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENTS ON THE  
CIVILIAN POPULATION.  
KINSOLVING

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BEIRUT04806  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014